

AGENDA ITEM IV

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CURRICULAR REVISION

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**REQUEST FOR SELECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE/CURRICULAR
CHANGES/TERMINATIONS**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In response to a growing fiscal crisis, the Louisiana State University System declared of a state of financial exigency at the University of New Orleans in April, 2006. Subsequently, the University requested that the LSU System consider select program/administrative unit changes and/or terminations to effect significant financial savings. The System approved the University's request at its meeting of June, 2006. Below is a staff summary which describes these recommended changes and analyzes the likely impact on the University.

STAFF SUMMARY

The University and System request the following actions:

1. Termination of the B.A. and B.S. programs in Economics, but retain Economic course offerings as needed for Business and other majors. The Department of Economics and Finance in the College of Business Administration, therefore, would continue to exist. The staff observes that both of these programs, while desirable, are not necessarily essential, especially given that both are low-completer programs.
2. Terminate the M.A. in Communications program. The University was under the impression that it offered both the M.A. in Communications and M.F.A. in Drama and Communications programs; however, the Curriculum Inventory was never amended as such. Hence, no action is required on this portion of their overall request.
3. Eliminate the Department of Health and Human Promotion within the College of Education and Human Development and terminate the related B.A., M.A., and M.Ed. programs in this area. The University believes that such programs are not essential to its role, scope, and mission, and that some current faculty in this area would be better utilized in support of its Educational Leadership efforts. The staff notes that the B.A. and M.A. are both low-completer programs.

4. Eliminate the Department of Engineering Management. The University believes that the related M.S. program can be effectively offered a joint degree between the College of Engineering and the College of Business Administration without a separate departmental unit. The staff notes that Engineering management degrees are often offered jointly between colleges of Engineering and Business.
5. Retitle the College of Urban and Planning Affairs as the School of Urban and Regional Studies within the College of Liberal Arts. B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs in Urban Studies will be transferred from the former College to a new Department of Planning within the School. In addition, the Departments of Anthropology and Geography will be moved into the School. As the School is within the College of Liberal Arts, these two departments will continue their existing academic function, but now also support continuing Urban Studies degrees. The staff notes that while Urban Studies is an important part of the University's mission, the relatively small size of these programs does not justify a separate and distinct college. Urban Studies should continue to flourish within the proposed new administrative arrangement.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff commends the administration of the University of New Orleans for its willingness to make hard choices during this time of austerity for the University. UNO estimates savings of approximately \$1.8 million per year and the elimination of 19 faculty and 2 staff positions. In addition, it is expected that 9 tenured and 1 untenured faculty will be furloughed. It is the staff's opinion that the overall academic impact of the proposed changes, while significant, will not substantively weaken or alter its stated role, scope, and mission.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for proposed administrative/curricular changes/terminations at the University of New Orleans, as indicated in the staff summary.